

THE 2016 NEVADA STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

MILITARY and VETERANS

1

2 We support the use of military readiness and diplomacy to deter war.

3 We support using military force as a last resort and in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

4 We support our men and women in the armed forces because service to our country is the greatest act of self
5 sacrifice and patriotism.

6 We support the full complement of current benefits and services which veterans and their families receive,
7 however, we also support expanding those benefits to include easier access to necessary medical and behavioral
8 services including but not limited to rehabilitative care for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic
9 Brain Injury (TBI).

10 We support fully staffing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) so that there are no backlogs in providing
11 service in the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, or the National Cemeteries
12 Administration.

13 We support the use of medical marijuana and holistic medicine in VA health facilities to reduce the use of
14 opiates.

15 We support legislation that provides proactive measures to protect service members from domestic violence
16 and sexual assault.

17 We support granting "Honorable Discharges" to those veterans who were discharged because of their sexual
18 orientation or gender identity, and inclusive services to LGBTQI* veterans and their families.

19 We support establishing Veterans Advocates in the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) to ensure
20 that our veterans receive the full benefits that they are entitled to by law, in a timely manner without
21 exploitation or harassment.

22 We support the establishment of a "Nevada Veterans Fund" to provide financial assistance to Veterans and
23 Military Families awaiting their VA benefits.

24 We support increases in programs for at-risk vets, including extra support for elderly and homeless Veterans.

25 We support the expansion of the US Department of Energy "Solar Ready Vets" program to Nevada in order to
26 educate Veterans and Military Families about work in the solar energy field.

27 We oppose the privatization of any portion of the Department of Veterans Affairs

28

CIVIL RIGHTS

29 We support a civil environment where all individuals have the freedom and opportunity to succeed.

30 We support equal rights, diversity, inclusion, gender protection laws, and marriage equality.

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31 We support affirmative action, gender equality, and equal pay for equal work.

32 We support Native Americans by funding promised health, rehabilitation, and education programs; by honoring
33 our treaty commitments; and by respecting their ancestral land rights.

34 We support the rights of people with disabilities including the accommodation of disabled persons in public
35 spaces.

36 We support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the Nevada legislature.

37 We oppose discrimination towards anyone in all forms.

38 We oppose any restrictions on a persons' ability to express their gender identity, including the use of the public
39 restroom or locker of their gender identity.

40 EDUCATION

41 We support fully investing in a strong university and college system that allows all qualified high school
42 graduates to get a quality college education without incurring crippling debt.

43 We support increasing, to at least the national average, education funding for all grade levels.

44 We support revising the school formula to guarantee all school districts will receive fair and equitable funding.

45 We oppose any attempt to break up or reorganize any school district in the State of Nevada.

46 We support expanding after school programs to help reduce Nevada's dropout rate.

47 We support the creation of specialized learning academies/schools with union apprenticeship programs.

48 We oppose using test scores to determine both teacher evaluation and teacher retention.

49 We oppose any public funding of private educational institutions including voucher programs or Education
50 Saving Accounts.

51 We support lowering the teacher to student ratio to a manageable size that allows teachers sufficient time with
52 each student, including those in English Language Learner programs.

53 We support a system of peer assistance, high quality and relevant professional development driven by annual
54 staff reviews to support all education professionals to improve instruction for students.

55 We support funding for school districts to pay teachers for extra teaching time at their contractual rate.

56 We support increasing compensation to teachers and support staff for all supplies used in the classroom that
57 come out of their own pocket.

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- 58 We support a curriculum that encourages a well-rounded education and does not depend on high stakes testing.
- 59 We support pre-K-12 broad curriculum including without limits STEAM, science, technology, engineering, arts,
60 mathematics, world and American history, civics and government, economics, world and US geography, foreign
61 language, vocational and technical education and at least 60 minutes of daily physical exercise.
- 62 We support a negotiated longer school day/longer school year
- 63 We support public funding for remedial summer school.
- 64 We support reducing interest rates, offering refinancing and/or forgiveness of student loans.
- 65 We oppose any effort to censor or re-write American history through selective textbook writings, including any
66 effort to impose religious doctrine on students.
- 67 We support medically accurate, inclusive, consent-based, and developmentally appropriate sexual education in
68 publicly funded Nevada schools.
- 69 We support all efforts to protect pre-K-12 students from sexual misconduct from teachers, staff, and other
70 adults on campus, as well as other students.
- 71 We support the planting of vegetable gardens at public schools.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- 72
- 73 We oppose profiling citizens based on their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, origin, or
74 socio-economic status.
- 75 We support increased law enforcement training and educational services that are culturally appropriate to
76 increase the integration of police into the communities they patrol and protect.
- 77 We support the expansion of paid work, educational, counseling and recreational programs, both in-and-out of
78 the institutional setting.
- 79 We support hiring peace officers that reflect the diversity of the communities that they serve.
- 80 We support racial and gender parity in sentencing.
- 81 We support local and state programs offering solutions to gang violence and alternatives to juvenile
82 incarceration for minor offenses.
- 83 We support alternative or flexible forms of sentencing for non-violent offenders so that they can continue to
84 provide for themselves and their dependents, reducing the cost to society.
- 85 We support the diagnosis/treatment of drug and alcohol addiction as a medical issue, not a crime.

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86 We support the state of Nevada decriminalizing marijuana, regulating recreational marijuana usage similar to
87 alcohol usage.

88 We support funding drug and alcohol treatment programs for all Nevadans, and providing programs
89 discouraging recreational use, especially by minors and young adults.

90 We support fully funding programs that protect prisoners from sexual and physical abuse.

91 We support increasing public safety funding.

92 We oppose the privatization of jails and prisons.

93 We support reporting of statistics on arrest-related injuries or deaths occurring while in police custody.

94 We oppose capital punishment.

95 We support government transparency.

96 We oppose warrantless wiretapping and surveillance programs.

97 We support the “Ban the Box” legislation but support including a disclaimer allowing businesses to conduct
98 criminal background checks if the applicant is considered for employment.

99 We support the right to bear arms in a responsible manner and oppose “Stand Your Ground” laws.

100 We support common-sense gun laws and efforts to reduce gun violence, including the ballot initiative that will
101 appear on Nevada’s 2016 ballot requiring background checks on all gun sales.

102 We support using technology aimed at keeping children safe and ensuring that firearms are stored safely.

103 We support reporting gun injuries and deaths as community health problems and keeping statistics and studying
104 those statistics as a public health issue.

105 We support anti-bullying programs, anti-domestic violence programs and suicide prevention programs.

106 We support intervention and ensuing services for victims of crimes, including but not limited to any kind of
107 abuse and/or human trafficking.

108 We support ending the rape kit backlog in Nevada and the entire United States.

109 We oppose any efforts to delay the judicial process simply because of partisan procedural delays and
110 obstruction in the judicial confirmation process.

111 **IMMIGRATION**

112 We support immigration reform programs that ensure our families are not torn apart by deportation.

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113 We support a comprehensive and affordable pathway to citizenship for undocumented individuals and their
114 families, including passage of the DREAM Act.

115 We support strong border security and funding for personnel to patrol our borders, but oppose vigilante groups
116 on the border.

117 We support providing the judicial system, including law enforcement officers, with the flexibility to implement
118 humane immigration programs.

119 We support adequate funding to provide lawyers for all persons in an immigration court hearing.

120 We oppose inhumane treatment in detention centers.

121 We support implementing a guest worker program, with proper accountability regarding employers.

122 We support every immigrant being able to attain driving privileges and in-state tuition rates, regardless of their
123 status.

124 **TAXATION, JOBS, and THE ECONOMY**

125 We support sustainable trade, economic and labor policies that create livable wages.

126 We support a living wage.

127 We support progressive tax policies.

128 We oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

129 We oppose inversion practices that result in tax avoidance of U.S. taxes.

130 We support federal funding to rebuild our infrastructure.

131 We support changing the highway infrastructure revenue based upon per-gallon gasoline tax to a more
132 equitable roadway-use tax.

133 We support restoration of the corporate Alternative Minimum Tax.

134 We support making Social Security financially sound for current and future generations by removing the payroll
135 tax cap.

136 We support encouragement of full payment of tax responsibility and therefore encourage the full funding of
137 federal and state tax collection agencies.

138 We support vigorous use of anti-trust laws to ensure a competitive marketplace.

139 We support government recoupment of research and development investment made with taxpayer funds.

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- 140 We oppose any employer's attempt to shift their costs of doing business onto future generations.
- 141 We support effective government policies that stimulate small businesses and small business growth.
- 142 We support tax policies that evenly and fairly level the playing field for all Nevada businesses.
- 143 We support fair and equal access to business capital regardless of the company's size.
- 144 We support business incubators and mentoring opportunities for minority and female owned businesses.
- 145 We support programs that protect consumers from predatory loan practices.
- 146 We support establishing a usury cap for loans.
- 147 We support programs that prohibit the collection and dissemination of personal information.
- 148 We support local family farming and ranching.
- 149 We support reinstating and strengthening of Glass-Steagall.

150 HOUSING

- 151 We support a more integrated solution to homelessness modeled after *Housing First*.
- 152 We support safe communities where seniors can live and retire with dignity and security.
- 153 We support affordable housing for seniors, veterans and others living on fixed incomes.
- 154 We support legislation to prohibit deficiency judgments in the event of real property short sale.
- 155 We support enforcement legislation that helps homeowners refinance loans so they can stay in their homes.

156 HEALTH CARE

- 157 We support Universal Healthcare.
- 158 We support full implementation of an improved health care system that ensures quality, affordable health care
159 for all.
- 160 We support allowing any American the option to buy into Medicare.
- 161 We support increased funding for Medicare and including vision and dental coverage.
- 162 We support health insurance reform that will help lower costs.
- 163 We support the Prescription Drug Affordability Act of 2015 and urge Congress to pass it.

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164 We support revision of Medicare Part D to allow for negotiation of lower drug prices and allow seniors to
165 purchase drugs from outside the US.

166 We support strengthening and expanding social programs, including increasing funding for mental health
167 programs.

168 We support increased funding for innovative healthcare programs and stem cell research.

169 We support increasing the availability of medical treatment in rural and underserved areas.

170 We support lowering the nurse to patient ratio to meet nationally recognized nursing standards.

171 We support requiring insurance companies to cover a complete range of reproductive health care.

172 We support a woman's right to personally choose the path and direction of her reproductive health care.

173 We oppose any intimidation or other tactics limiting women's health care rights.

174 We oppose policies that define "personhood" at a woman's expense.

175 We support workplace protections for pregnant women so they can obtain and maintain employment.

176 We oppose parental notification requirements that put an unnecessary burden on young people to access
177 reproductive health services.

178 We support the comprehensive labeling of all G.M.O. products.

179 We support the removal by Congress of marijuana as Schedule 1 drug.

180 We support making training available to medical students that focus specifically on military and veterans' health
181 care.

182 We support making training available to medical students in the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare,
183 including the provision of abortion services.

184 **WORKER'S RIGHTS and UNIONIZATION**

185 We support collective bargaining and binding arbitration for all public employees.

186 We support card check legislation and allowing employees to unionize without employer retaliation.

187 We call on all employers to engage in good faith collective bargaining with their workers.

188 We support efforts to strengthen and protect the American tradition of unionization.

189 We support the elimination of Nevada's third-party worker's compensation system and the return to Nevada's
190 state run worker's compensation system.

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- 191 We support protecting workers from unsafe working conditions by fully funding Nevada OSHA.
- 192 We support extending both worker’s compensation insurance and unemployment insurance for all injured,
193 disabled and light-duty workers.
- 194 We support “prevailing-wages”, project labor agreements, and pension protection laws.
- 195 We support strengthening the PERS Retirement System.
- 196 We support eliminating the windfall adjustment provision and government pension offset.
- 197 We oppose the misclassification of workers including those as independent contractors.
- 198 We oppose the creation of “permanent part-time” positions.
- 199 We oppose the permanent replacement of workers engaged in a legal strike.
- 200 We support paid family leave programs and employer supported child daycare programs, regardless of the size
201 of the company.
- 202 We oppose the firing of workers unless by due process and with just cause.
- 203 We oppose the hiring of subcontractors that import non-union, out-of-state employees on jobs that are funded
204 by Nevada taxpayers.
- 205 We support requiring skilled labor training/certification programs for all crafts and building trades.
- 206 We support the elimination of the Right-to-Work statutes in Nevada.

ENVIRONMENT and ENERGY

- 207
- 208 We support alternative energy as Nevada’s primary energy source for homes, businesses, public buildings,
209 transportation, and power plants.
- 210 We support energy efficiency programs in public and private buildings
- 211 We support restoring net metering and loan guarantees for alternative energy installations.
- 212 We support elimination of all direct and indirect subsidies for fossil fuels production and consumption.
- 213 We support carbon-based taxes on fossil fuels and tax incentives, which encourages the use of renewable
214 sources of energy.
- 215 We support water conservation efforts, oppose inter-basin water transfers of ground water and encourage
216 desalination.
- 217 We support sustainable water use and water policies that protect Nevada’s watersheds.

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- 218 We support landfill reduction and energy saving methods, including expansion of recycling programs in Nevada.
- 219 We support legislation requiring a small fee for disposable bags.
- 220 We oppose use of fracking in the State of Nevada.
- 221 We support regulations that identify chemicals used in the fracking processes.
- 222 We support biologically sound, ethical and sustainable land management policies and wise management of
223 public lands.
- 224 We support the collaboration and coordinated efforts of federal, state, local agencies, and private stakeholders
225 to maintain and increase the sage grouse population saving them from federally designated endangered species
226 status.
- 227 We support adequate funding for the agencies that manage Nevada's lands.
- 228 We support keeping public lands in public hands.
- 229 We oppose the disposal, transportation and reprocessing of nuclear and toxic wastes in or through Nevada.
- 230 We support legislation holding polluters responsible for the costs of mitigation and remediation of pollution.
- 231 We support renewable energy transportation systems.
- 232 We oppose the inhumane treatment of animals.
- 233 We support the historical significance, protection, and humane treatment of the wild horse population and
234 burro populations, while maintaining protection of our ecological biodiversity on public lands in Nevada.
- 235 We support maintaining Lake Tahoe's pristine environment through environmentally sound planning and
236 continued participation in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.
- 237 We support making Gold Butte a National Monument.
- 238 We support hemp farming.

239 **ELECTIONS and GOVERNMENT**

- 240 We support open and fair elections through voter protection programs.
We support future reforms to the Presidential Primary process, including super-delegates, while ensuring
Nevada remains an early state and *First in the West*.
- 241 We support legislation creating automatic and same-day voter registration through Election Day e-poll books.
- 242 We support expanding the times and locations for early voting.

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- 243 We oppose photo ID requirements for voting and/or any other efforts aimed at voter suppression
- 244 We support ensuring access to voting for the homeless.
- 245 We support restoring voting rights to convicted felons after the completion of their sentences.
- 246 We support increased access to electronic and Braille ballots to ensure that disabled individuals can exercise
247 their right to vote.
- 248 We believe all Americans deserve equal political rights and therefore support statehood for the District of
249 Columbia.
- 250 We support continuing the ban on registered lobbyists on the floor of the Nevada Legislature.
- 251 We support overturning *Citizens United vs. FEC* and removing corporate money as well as unlimited donations
252 and expenditures from our elections.
- 253 We support legislation encouraging the public financing of campaigns.
- 254 We call upon the Nevada Legislature and Congress to address campaign finance reform.
- 255 We support full, complete, and timely public disclosure laws for all sources of political contributions or
256 expenditures for all candidates for public office.
- 257 We support making Election Day a state/national holiday.
- 258 We support the continued implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act,
259 and increased monitoring and regulation of all financial institutions.
- 260 We oppose privatization of any government services.
- 261 We support legislation reinforcing the Constitutional requirement mandating government agencies get a court
262 warrant before they can execute a search and seizure.
- 263 We oppose heavy-handed congressional mandates imposed upon the U.S. Postal Service.
- 264 We support the mission of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect consumers from unscrupulous
265 and fraudulent businesses.
- 266 We support the repeal of the remaining McCarran-Ferguson Act that afforded the insurance industry exemption
267 from antitrust laws.
- 268 We support regulations and investigations by the state and federal governments that guarantee the safety of
269 our food and drugs.

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- 270 We support federal agricultural policy that balances farm subsidies with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
271 Program (SNAP).
- 272 We support funding for child welfare such as WIC, S-CHIP, SNAP, CASA, the Safe and Stable Families Act.